**MEMORANDUM**

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION
August 6, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:                    A. Denis Clift

SUBJECT:                 Transfer of NSC Staff Responsibility for Greece,
                         Turkey and Cyprus to European Area

During the past several months, agencies with which the NSC Staff works
on a daily basis have shifted responsibility for Greek, Turkish and Cypriot
affairs from their Middle Eastern to European bureaus or divisions. The
earlier arrangement apparently was long thought anomalous, but was con-
tinued due to bureaucratic politics. When the Department of State finally
transferred responsibility for the three countries to its Bureau for European
Affairs, CIA and International Security Affairs at the Department of Defense
followed suit. The chief substantive reasons for the transfer included
recognition that the two countries were more European than Middle Eastern
and that establishment of responsibility in one office for all NATO countries
and Alliance affairs was substantively more sensible and bureaucratically
more efficient.

The NSC Staff alone continues to place responsibility for Greece, Turkey
and Cyprus in the Middle East area. It would be a logical step now to
shift these countries to the European area of the Staff and thereby bring
our organization and functional responsibilities into conformity with the
rest of the government. The deep involvement of the NATO countries in
the recent Cyprus crisis and the growing personal involvement of State's
European Bureau at the policy level suggest further desirability of a transfer
to the European area of the Staff. (Needless to say, we would coordinate
closely with the NSC's Middle East staff after such a transfer.)

Concurrence: Rosemary Niehuss

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve transfer of NSC Staff responsibilities for Greece, Turkey
and Cyprus to the European area.

APPROVE_____          DISAPPROVE_____

NSC review completed

ADMINISTRATIVELY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~